

Attorney Docket No. 13DV-14050/11660 (21635-0048)
Application No. 09/900,411

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action of January 28, 2004. Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1-5, 7-16, and 18-21 are allowed, and claims 6, 17, 22, and 23 are rejected. In response, claims 6, 17, 22, and 23 are cancelled, and new claims 24-25 are added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Applicant has cancelled all of the rejected claims, placing the remaining claims 1-5, 7-16, and 18-21 in condition for allowance.

Applicant submits two new claims 23-24 in this after-final amendment. Applicant appreciates that the entry of these two new claims is discretionary with the Examiner, and asks that he enter them because they both depend from allowed independent claims and do not raise new issues. If any problem arises as the result of these two claims, Applicant requests the Examiner to contact Applicant's representative, whose contact information is provided below. Claim 23 is the same as original claim 6, and claim 24 is the same as original claim 17. Original claims 6 and 17 had been amended to independent form in the previous amendment, and Applicant now seeks to undo that change and bring these claims back into the set of dependent claims for respective amended independent claims 1 and 12. Because claims 6 and 17 had been examined in their original form and because they each depend from allowed independent claims incorporating all of the limitations of the allowed independent claims, these claims should also be allowable and, Applicant asks that the Examiner enter and allow them.

Claims 6, 17, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over ASM Handbook volume 2 in view of ASM handbook volume 4. Applicant traverses this ground of rejection.

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Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over ASM Handbook volume 2 in view of ASM handbook volume 4, and further in view of Ruckle U.S. Patent 4,631,092. Applicant traverses this ground of rejection.

Applicant traverses these grounds of rejection but has cancelled claims 6, 17, 22, and 23 to advance prosecution and obtain the allowance of claims of interest.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and requests such allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,
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